

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ENCODING AND STORING SESSION DATA

Abstract of the Disclosure

Session data is encoded in a tag-length-value format and encrypted using a
5 modified encryption key. A session cookie is then formed by concatenating the length
of the length of the secret, the length of the secret, the secret itself, and the encoded and
encrypted configuration data. The session cookie is transmitted from a server computer
to a client computer, where it is stored. Each time the client computer begins a new
communications session with the server computer that generated the session cookie, the
10 session cookie is transmitted from the client computer to the server computer. The
server computer receives the session cookie from the client computer and extracts the
secret stored in the session cookie. The server computer then creates the modified
encryption key by inserting the secret into the standard encryption key at the predefined
location. The server computer then utilizes the modified encryption key to decrypt the
15 encoded session data stored in the session cookie. Once the encoded session data has
been decrypted, the server computer decodes the tags contained in the encoded session
data. For each tag, the server computer determines whether the tag is recognized as a
valid tag. If the tag is a valid tag, the server computer utilizes the value associated with
the tag to configure itself. If the tag is not a valid tag, the server computer ignores the
20 tag and attempts to decode the next tag. The server computer continues decoding tags
until no tags remain to be decoded. A new session cookie may be created and
transmitted to the client computer. Periodically, the server computer may request the
new session cookie from the client computer to determine if the communications session
between the client computer and the server computer is still active. If no response or an
25 invalid session cookie is received, the communications session between the client and
server computers is terminated.

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